



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Pleads in Slaying of Elderly Man in West Covina

A La Puente woman pleaded no contest today to murdering an 82-year-old man whose body was found in his West Covina home that had been set ablaze, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Brenda Armstrong, 41, entered her plea to one count each of first-degree murder and arson of an inhabited structure. Her sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 14 when she is expected to receive 30 years to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Tony Cho of the Elder Abuse Section prosecuted the case.

Armstrong was a waitress at a local restaurant that was frequented by Ralph Simonian.

On Nov. 15, 2012, Simonian was found at his home in the 900 block of South Holiday Drive in West Covina. His house had been set on fire and he had been stabbed multiple times.

Armstrong was arrested in September 2013 in Delaware.

Case KA102596 was investigated by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.